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Message Text

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62
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01 AF-06 /041 W
---------- 125372
R 061950Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8667
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SOPN, AO, TD
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE ON ANGOLA

REF: POS 15

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. "TRINIDAD GUARDIAN" CARRIED IN ITS JANUARY 6 EDITION AN ARTICLE BY DAVID MARTIN OF THE OVERSEAS FREELANCE NEWS SERVICE (OFNS) ON ANGOLA AND THE OAU SUMMIT DATELINED ADDIS ABABA. MOST OF THE ARTICLE WAS CONCERNED WITH A SLANTED HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE THREE GROUPS NOW FIGHTING FOR POLITICAL CONTROL OF ANGOLA. MARTIN WAS HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY TOWARD THE MPLA, WHICH HE TERMED "PROGRESSIVE" RATHER THAN "MARXIST". HE DESCRIBED THE FNLA AS A CREATURE OF ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU, "AMERICA'S MAIN CLIENT IN AFRICA", AND THE UNITA AS HAVING SOLD OUT TO SOUTH AFRICA. ACCORDING TO MARTIN, RUSSIAN ARMS BEGAN TO ARRIVE IN ANGOLA IN MAY ONLY AFTER A PLOT BY THE CIA TO EXCLUDE THE MPLA FROM A POST-INDEPENDENCE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES BY THE FNLA IN NOVEMBER. THE ARTICLE
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ALSO CLAIMED THAT "CUBAN TROOPS TRAINING THE MPLA'S EXPANDED

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ARMY DID NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING UNTIL EARLY NOVEMBER .... WHEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLUMN WAS ALREADY 800 KMS. INSIDE ANGOLA". IN THE FINAL PARAGRAPH MARTIN MADE EXPLICIT HIS OWN BIAS: "NO DOUBT WHEN THEY (THE OAU) ASSEMBLY IN ADDIS ABABA A VALID POINT WHICH WILL BE FORCEABLY MADE TO THEM IS THAT THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS SUPPORTED THE DECONLONIZATION WARS. AND IN, CONTRAST, CIA AND PRETORIA OPPOSED THEM. THUS THE QUESTION WILL BE ASKED: ARE THEY NOW SUPPORTING ANGOLA'S INDEPENDENCE OR TRYING TO PREVENT IT?" END UNCLASSIFIED, BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

2. THE "GUARDIAN" HAS REGULARLY CARRIED OFNS STORIES, WHICH HAVE ALMOST ALWAYS BEEN HOSTILE TO THE US OR US INTERESTS. EMBASSY WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW FROM DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY LONDON BACKGROUND OF OFNS OPERATIONS AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN USED TO PLANT HOSTILE STORIES.
RICH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, JOURNALISTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760004-0302
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SOPN, AO, TD, MPLA, OAU, (MARTIN, DAVID)
To: STATE LONDON
Type: TE
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